

**WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
March 31, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER** A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman Hamade on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

**SALUTE TO FLAG** Chairman Hamade led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL** Commissioners Present: Hamade, Cruz, Robbins, Fisher, Nguyen.

Commissioners Absent: None.

**STAFF PRESENT** Adolfo Ozaeta, Associate Civil Engineer; Sergeant Mark Nye, Westminster Police Department; Dora Salud, Secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of February 24, 2009 were approved. (5-0)

Chairman Hamade requested that Oral Communications be moved up the agenda.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** Anh Do resides in Costa Mesa and her place of business, NGUOI Viet Daily News is located at 14771 Moran Street. She asked the Commission to consider parking restrictions due to the difficulty of parking and protest activity during the past 15 months. This cul-de-sac is limited to five parking spaces for the businesses in the area to use and have been taken up by various protest transportation daily and overnight. The challenge of the business owners is that there is not sufficient customer parking and multiple complaints were received.

Linh Nguyen (15031 Purdy Street), a colleague of Ms. Do, spoke in favor of 20 minute parking restrictions. He displayed an exhibit of the businesses located in the cul-de-sac and explained that one of the locations was a storage unit and currently is a seafood shop in need of ample parking. He further explained that parking restrictions would be beneficial to all of the businesses in the area as the demand for parking is critical.

Ms. Do elaborated on the harassment and the problems caused by the protesters in the area.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Cruz moved to bring back the item in one month, seconded by Chairman Hamade.

**VOTE**

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Ozaeta requested that the Commission move up agenda item B, T.C. 09-101, because the people in attendance were there for that item.

**ITEMS TO BE  
CONSIDERED**

The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting. T.C. 09-100, Request to Install Parking Restrictions at Navajo and Chippewa

**T.C. 09-101  
NAVAJO & CHIPPEWA**

Mr. Ozaeta explained that staff had received a written request from Natalie de Haas-Rowland (6142 Navajo Road) requesting to install all-way stop control at the intersection of Navajo Road and Chippewa Street. Exhibit A was displayed for observation of the neighborhood.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that staff referred to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which is a federal and state document that was adopted by the State of California. This was brought forth by the Federal Government in 2006 to ensure that traffic professionals throughout the country will follow the same techniques on installing stop control, street markings, pavement markings and other signage so that drivers throughout the states are not confused. Therefore, certain criteria must be met prior to staff recommendation.

Additional exhibits were provided to support the study which included a traffic count summary, radar speed count, all-way stop warrant, and a collision history report.

**STAFF'S  
RECOMMENDATION**

Mr. Ozaeta stated the intersection of Navajo Road and Chippewa Street did not meet the requirements established by the MUTCD; therefore, staff recommended the Traffic Commission to deny the all-way stop. Residents are encouraged to contact the Westminster Police Department for additional enforcement.

Sergeant Nye interjected that his motor officers issued nine citations in the past two months while monitoring the area and will continue to enforce the speed control at various

times. Mr. Nye expressed disadvantages for all-way stop signs:

1. A false sense of security for pedestrians and vehicles at an intersection as other motorists whom regularly travel the area fail to stop due to a lack of awareness.
2. Increased motorist noise as vehicles are coming to a halt and reaccelerating.
3. Motorists rolling through a stop sign that they feel it was not warranted.

Natalie Rowland (6142 Navajo Road) spoke in favor of the all-way stop sign as she had three cars hit on three different occasions while parked in the front of her home. Secondly, two of her cats have been killed and one dog hit. She was disappointed with the time frame of the radar distribution sheet between the hours of 10:00-11:00 a.m. She believes the early morning hours of 7:00-8:00 a.m. and the evening hours of 4:00-7:00 p.m. are the periods that should be detected. Lastly, vehicles slow down when the police and trailers are onsite; nonetheless, the speeding continues once they leave the scene.

Christopher Rowland (6142 Navajo Road), husband of Mrs. Rowland, spoke in favor of the all-way stop as he described excessive speeding scenarios on his street. He made evident that seven out of 64 cars adhered to the speed limit according to the radar speed distribution sheet.

Lora Persgard (6152 Navajo Road) spoke in favor of the all-way stop as she had lost a few cats, had one car totaled, and two of her sons cars had been side swiped due to the accelerated speeding on the street.

Robert Caprelli (6151 Navajo Road) spoke in favor of the all-way stop and for other stop signs to be installed at uncontrolled intersections in the neighborhood.

Sergeant Nye and Mr. Ozaeta interjected that not all four way intersections can be controlled and vehicles must yield to the right of way. He further communicated that stop signs installed throughout the City that had not been warranted were issued as residents brought forth the recommendation to the Commission and were approved over staff's recommendation of denial.

Roger Bolin (6181 Chippewa Drive) spoke in opposition of the all-way stop as he resides on the corner of Navajo Road and Chippewa Street. He believes it would be very difficult

for him to get in and out of his driveway during peak hours of the day if motorists are backed up at the stop signs. He agreed there is a speeding problem and suggested a speed camera.

Mr. Ozaeta interjected that speed cameras are not typically placed in residential areas and are court ordered to be placed where the most fatalities occur. In addition, it is not cost effective as the equipment, installation, maintenance, and a sworn officer hired by the City is costly.

Theresa Hill (6161 Chippewa Drive) spoke in opposition of the all-way stop because she does not believe it will resolve the speeding problem. She believes the dips and speed bumps are an excellent speed deterrent.

Discussion ensued among the Commissioners regarding staff's and the public's recommendation.

#### **MOTION**

Chairman Hamade moved to uphold the recommendation to deny the all-way stop sign for not meeting the criteria, have staff provide options and solutions, and random enforcement by the police for the next three months between the hours of 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

#### **VOTE**

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

The second item to be considered at tonight's meeting was T.C. 09-100, Request for Parking Restrictions on the south side Bishop Place west of Brookhurst Street.

#### **T.C. 09-100 Bishop & Brookhurst**

Mr. Ozaeta explained that the design process of the new traffic signal at Brookhurst and Bishop did not identify that eastbound traffic along Bishop was now going to be modified to provide for the current configuration, a left and a through right. The Municipal Code allows the installation of twenty feet of parking restrictions without Council or Commission approval but Staff recommends a distance of 190 feet on the south side of Bishop Place from the beginning of curb return to the west in order to provide for a through lane that allows parking. Mr. Ozaeta explained that any area where parking is allowed needs to be a minimum of 18 feet.

#### **STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the installation of parking restrictions for 190 feet on the south side of Bishop Place west of Brookhurst Street.

Discussion ensued among the Commissioners regarding staff's recommendation and the need for parking.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Robbins moved as recommended by staff, seconded by Commissioner Fisher.

**VOTE**

The motion carried by a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Nguyen voting no.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There were no "New Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**INFORMATION  
AND REPORTS**

There were no "Information and Reports" presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**WRITTEN  
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS COMMISSIONERS/  
STAFF MAY WISH TO  
DISCUSS**

Commissioner Fisher expressed her gratitude to staff for all of the detailed information, research and exhibits provided for all items at all times.

Mr. Ozaeta invited the Commissioners to the Traffic Commission workshop attentively scheduled for a Saturday either in April or May.

The City will be changing out traffic signal cabinets at five different intersections, one each day of the week, as part of the ITS project and expansion of the Traffic Management Center. Video detection and CCTV cameras will be monitored in the office as well as traffic control adjustments at each of the intersections.

The Commissioners requested the California Vehicle code and cheat sheet itemized by popular topics.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef  
Public Works Director/City Engineer

By: Dora Salud, Secretary